

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of the claims will replace the previous version, and the listing of the claims:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An automatic document feeder for transferring an original through a reading position, comprising:

an apparatus frame for the automatic document feeder;

first transport means disposed at an upstream side of the reading position in an original transfer direction for transporting the original to the reading position;

second transport means disposed at a downstream side of the reading position in the original transfer direction for transporting the original passing through the reading position;

a curved reading path extending from the first transport means to the second transport means;

a reading guide unit formed separately from the apparatus frame and including as one unit a first guide member for guiding the original from the first transport means to the reading position; a second guide member for guiding the original passing through the reading position to the second transport means; and a transparent film member formed of a flexible material for forming at least a part of the curved reading path between the first guide member and the second guide member; and

support means ~~attached to~~ formed on the apparatus frame and the reading guide unit for ~~supporting the same~~ detachably attaching the reading guide unit as one unit to the apparatus frame.

2. (currently amended) An automatic document feeder according to claim 1, wherein said support means ~~supports the reading guide unit detachably to the automatic document feeder~~ includes notched portions formed at the reading guide unit, and said apparatus frame

includes pins for receiving the notched portions to rotationally hold the reading guide unit.

3. (currently amended) An automatic document feeder according to claim 1, wherein for transferring an original through a reading position, comprising:

first transport means disposed at an upstream side of the reading position in an original transfer direction for transporting the original to the reading position;

second transport means disposed at a downstream side of the reading position in the original transfer direction for transporting the original passing through the reading position;

a curved reading path extending from the first transport means to the second transport means;

a reading guide unit including as one unit a first guide member for guiding the original from the first transport means to the reading position; a second guide member for guiding the original passing through the reading position to the second transport means, said first guide member and said second guide member are being made of plastic and integrally molded together; and a transparent film member formed of a flexible material for forming at least a part of the curved reading path between the first guide member and the second guide member; and

support means attached to the reading guide unit for supporting the same.

4. (original) An automatic document feeder according to claim 1, wherein said transparent film member is arranged along a document guiding surface of the first guide member.

5. (original) An automatic document feeder according to claim 1, further comprising tension applying means attached to at least one

end of the transparent film member for supporting the at least one end in the original transfer direction and applying tension to the transparent film member.

6. (currently amended) An automatic document feeder according to claim 4 3, wherein said transparent film member has an edge separated into a plurality of pieces in a width direction at a downstream side in the original transfer direction, a portion of the separated edge extending toward a guiding side of the second guide member, the other portion of the separated edge extending toward a back surface of the second guide member.

7. (original) An automatic document feeder according to claim 1, wherein said support means supports the reading guide unit rotatably to the automatic document feeder.

8. (currently amended) An automatic document feeder according to claim 7, wherein said support means includes a support shaft attached to a the apparatus frame of the automatic document feeder for rotatably supporting the reading guide unit to the apparatus frame.

9. (original) An automatic document feeder according to claim 8, wherein said reading guide unit includes an engagement portion for engaging the support shaft so that the engagement portion is detachable relative to the support shaft.

10. (currently amended, withdrawn) A document reading apparatus for reading an original, comprising,

a reading unit including a platen for placing the original, and reading means situated under the platen, said reading means being able to move to read the original placed on the platen and

being stationary to read the original passing through a reading position on the platen, and the automatic document feeder according to claim 1

~~an original transfer unit disposed on the reading unit, and including first transport means for transporting the original to the reading position, and second transport means for discharging the original passing through the reading position; and~~

~~a reading guide unit rotatably attached to the original transfer unit and including a first guide member for guiding the original from the first transport means to the reading position, a second guide member for guiding the original passing through the reading position to the second transport means; and a transparent film member situated between the first guide member and the second guide member.~~

11. (withdrawn) A document reading apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said original transfer unit includes a support shaft, and said reading guide unit includes an engagement portion for engaging the support shaft so that the engagement portion is detachably attached to the support shaft.

12. (new) An automatic document feeder according to claim 1, wherein said reading guide unit includes said first guide member, said second guide member, and said transparent film member without including a discharge tray.